

BIOLOGICAL STAIN EVIDENCE

Promptly submit any biological stain evidence to the laboratory to prevent degradation. Biological evidence includes blood, semen, saliva and any other evidence containing biological fluids.

A. Blood Stains (Identification and Comparison):

NOTE: Dry moist articles and swabs before packaging.

1. Photograph blood pattern – use ruler for scale if necessary.
2. Either collect the whole article or use a barely moist swab (like a Q-tip) to swab the stain (use water to moisten the swabs). Also, using another swab, swab a nearby unstained area as a “control.” Air-dry all swabs.
3. package items or swabs in PAPER – no plastic bags.
4. Keep cool or frozen.

B. Semen and Saliva Stains (Identification and Comparison)

1. Collect the whole article, or use a barely moist swab.
2. Mark the stain when wet, then dry article.
3. Package item in PAPER – no plastic bags.
4. Keep cool or frozen.

C. Sex Crime Kits: May also be used for suspect’s samples (including penile swabbing from suspect, if within 22 hours of incident) or for victim autopsy samples.

NOTE: Refrigerate these kits, but DO NOT FREEZE!

1. Kits are available free of charge from your local Forensic Services Laboratory.
2. After taking samples, be sure kits have all the needed samples by checking steps with hospital staff.
3. check that seals are intact and hospital staff has started chain of custody.
4. Collect known samples for comparison – typically blood and saliva; analyst will specify.
5. If collecting penile swabbing from suspect, use moist swab. Besides swabbing the penile shaft, also collect from testes and pubic hair, which interfaces with penis (3 areas total).